AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A nasal mask assembly for delivering a fluid from a fluid source into a patient's nostrils, comprising:

a nasal cup adapted to cover a patient's nose, said nasal cup having a perimeter, an internal cavity, an input port having an internal end within said internal cavity of said nasal cup and an external end external to said nasal cup, and a nasal delivery system in fluid communication with said internal end of said input port and contained within said internal cavity, wherein said nasal delivery system comprises a pair of nasal prongs in fluid communication with said internal end of said input port, said nasal prongs having an outer diameter less than the inner diameter of the patient's nostrils and extending into the patient's nostrils, said nasal cup and said nasal prongs adapted to simultaneously deliver the fluid from said internal cavity of said nasal cup and said nasal prongs to the patient;

a source tube system in fluid communication with said external end of said input port of said nasal cup and adapted to be in fluid communication with the fluid source such that the fluid is delivered from the fluid source to inside of the patient's nostrils through said nasal prongs of said nasal delivery system; and

a means for securing said nasal cup over the patient's nose.

2. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of breathable air, oxygen, and an anesthesia.

3. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein said means for securing said nasal cup over the patient's nose is a fastening mechanism connected to said nasal cup.

4. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 3, wherein said fastening mechanism is selected from a group consisting of one or more straps adapted for fitting behind a patient's head, one or more straps adapted for securing said nasal cup to a patient's ears, and an adhesive along an interior of said perimeter of said nasal cup.

5. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a means for molding said perimeter of said nasal cup to approximate a surface of the patient's face surrounding the patient's nose.

6. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 5, wherein said means for molding is one or more strips of moldable material positioned along said perimeter of said nasal cup.

7. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 6, wherein said moldable material is metal.

8. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 5, wherein said means for molding comprises said nasal cup being made of a moldable material.

9. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a means for rotating said source tube at said external end of said input port of said nasal cup.

10. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 9, wherein said source tube rotates 360 degrees about said external end of said input port of said nasal cup.

11. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 9, wherein said input port is a pivotal tube.

12. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein said nasal delivery system further comprises a delivery tube in fluid communication with said internal end of said input port and said nasal prongs.

13. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 12, wherein said delivery tube is generally horizontal and said internal end of said input port is about centrally attached to said delivery tube.

14. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 12, wherein said delivery tube has open ends in fluid communication with said internal cavity of said nasal cup.

15. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein said nasal cup has a general shape of a human nose.

16. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein said nasal cup is made of clear plastic.

17. (Original) The nasal mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein said nasal prongs are at least about one inch in length.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a fluid from a fluid source into a patient's nostrils, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a nasal mask assembly, comprising:

a nasal cup adapted to cover a patient's nose, said nasal cup having a perimeter, an internal cavity, an input port having an internal end within said internal cavity of said nasal cup and an external end external to said nasal cup, and a nasal delivery system in fluid communication with said internal end of said input port and contained within said internal cavity, wherein said nasal delivery system comprises a pair of nasal prongs in fluid communication with said internal end of said input port, said nasal prongs having an outer diameter less than the inner diameter of the patient's nostrils and extending into the patient's nostrils;

a source tube system in fluid communication with said external end of said input port of said nasal cup and adapted to be in fluid communication with the fluid source such that the fluid is delivered from the fluid source to the patient's nostrils through said nasal prongs of said nasal delivery system; and

a means for securing said nasal cup over the patient's nose;

(b) inserting said nasal prongs of said nasal mask assembly to inside of the patient's nostrils;

(c) securing said nasal cup of said nasal mask assembly over the patient's nose;

(d) connecting said source tube system to said external end of said input port of said nasal mask assembly;

(e) connecting a distal end of said source tube system to the fluid source; and

(f) simultaneously delivering ~~providing~~ fluid from the fluid source to the inside of the patient's nostrils from said internal cavity of said nasal cup and ~~through~~ said nasal prongs of said nasal delivery system of said nasal mask assembly.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of breathable air, oxygen, and an anesthesia.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said means for securing said nasal cup over the patient's nose is a fastening mechanism connected to said nasal cup.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said fastening mechanism is selected from a group consisting of one or more straps adapted for fitting behind a patient's head, one or more straps adapted for securing said nasal cup to a patient's ears, and an adhesive along an interior of said perimeter of said nasal cup.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said nasal mask assembly further comprises a means for molding said perimeter of said nasal cup to approximate a surface of the patient's face surrounding the patient's nose, and the method further comprises the step of:

(g) molding said means for molding such that said perimeter of said nasal cup approximates the surface of the patient's face surrounding the patient's nose, wherein said step (g) is performed prior to said step (c).

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said means for molding is one or more strips of moldable material positioned along said perimeter of said nasal cup.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 23, wherein said moldable material is metal.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said means for molding comprises said nasal cup being made of a moldable material.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said nasal mask assembly further comprises a means for rotating said source tube at said external end of said input port of said nasal cup.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein said source tube rotates 360 degrees about said external end of said input port of said nasal cup.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 26, wherein said input port is a pivotal tube.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said nasal delivery system further comprises a delivery tube in fluid communication with said internal end of said input port and said nasal prongs.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein said delivery tube is generally horizontal and said internal end of said input port is about centrally attached to said delivery tube.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 29, wherein said delivery tube has open ends in fluid communication with said internal cavity of said nasal cup.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said nasal cup has a general shape of a human nose.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said nasal cup is made of clear plastic.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said nasal prongs are at least about one inch in length.